

this implied rebuke was a letter of resignation*
The French, he argued, would only make an acceptable offer if they were convinced that Germany meant business, " We must have the whole French Congo; it is the last chance of getting something substantial in Africa without a fight. We must go up to the Belgian Congo in order to have a say if it is ever partitioned, and, so long as it remains a state, to secure communication through it with German East Africa. Any other solution ^means a reverse for us, which we can only avert by unflinching resolution." If France declined, Germany should insist on the strict execution of the Algeciras Act. The French should be told that Germany would no longer look on while they broke a solemn treaty and did what they liked in Morocco. " I do not believe that they would take up the challenge, but they must feel that we are ready for everything. If a man says in advance that he will not fight, he will achieve nothing in politics." Since he no longer enjoyed the confidence of the ruler he would resign. Bethmann was also alarmed, but he declared that Kiderlen's resignation would involve his own, and the Kaiser gave way.

As the days passed without any communication from Berlin Grey's anxieties increased, and on July 21 he spoke to the German Ambassador. He had no formal communication to make, but our silence did not mean that we were indifferent. Hoping that France and Germany might reach a settlement on the basis of a rectification of the frontier on the French Congo, we had stood aside; but the news that Berlin was demanding virtually a cession of the 'French Congo, which it was obviously impossible for France to grant, made him anxious. If the negotiations failed, a very embarrassing situation might arise. Agadir was the most statable

port for a
naval base. What was taking place there we
did not know;

to withdraw and the more necessary to protect
British interests.
Metternich defended the action of his
Government and com-
plained that Grey had two scales, one for
Germany, another
for France; but he was not in a position to give
any information.
The Foreign Minister, he reported to
Berlin, feared a
breakdown of the negotiations and desired to
take part in
them. It was clear that he would support the
French and
would grudge Germany a footing in Agadir, but
outside
Morocco he was full of good will.